

FRONT & CENTER

Providing News to Our Veterans

April 2012



HONORED TO SERVE OUR POWS

Since World War I, more than 142,000 Americans, including 85 women, have been captured and interned as prisoners of war (POW) [not included in this figure are nearly 93,000 Americans who were lost or never recovered]. More than 90% of living former POWs were captured and interned during World War II, including Army Veteran John Kozlosky.

John served in Company K, 112th Infantry Battalion, 28th Infantry Division during World War II and in the Army National Guard during the Korean War. He took part in the Battle of the Bulge and fought across France, Normandy, Belgium, Luxemburg and on to Germany. John was wounded several times and survived a capture by German troops and a stay in a POW camp. He was freed from the German prison in April 1945 and transferred to a military hospital in England.

John first came to VA Butler Healthcare in the 1940s after WWII. Having recently celebrated his 92nd birthday, he continues his care at VA Butler. He participates in VA Butler's Home-Based Primary Care (HBPC) program which offers long-term primary health care services to Veterans in their homes. "I have trouble with my knees and my hip, so I have a hard time getting

around. They come to my house every week to help with medications and cleaning – it's a good thing," said John.

HBPC is available for Veterans with complex, chronic, and long-term conditions that would make it difficult for them to come to VA Butler for treatment. A VA treatment team coordinates a plan of care and comes to the Veteran's home to provide services. They are not only there to help the Veteran, but also the caregivers, to help them take care of the Veteran in the home.

It is an honor and privilege for VA Butler's staff to serve our former POWs like John every day. For more information about VA health care and benefits for former POWs, Veterans and their family members may contact VA Butler's Former Prisoner of War (FPOW) Advocate at 724.285.2492. ★

“They come to my house every week to help with medications and cleaning – it's a good thing.”

John Kozlosky

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY...APRIL

- 1 President Eisenhower authorizes the creation of the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado (1954)
- 7 The World Health Organization (WHO) is established by the United Nations (1948)
- 9 The National Prisoner of War Museum is dedicated in Georgia, on the site of an American Civil War POW camp (1998)
- 10 During World War II, the Bataan Death March begins as American and Filipino prisoners are forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan (1942)
- 24 The U.S. Library of Congress is established (1800)



Military Sexual Trauma

Healing Starts with Knowing the Facts

VA Butler Healthcare provides free, confidential counseling and treatment for mental and physical health conditions related to Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Contact VA Butler's MST Coordinator at 724.477.5039.

www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome.asp





A GREENER VA EARTH DAY 2012

On April 22, more than one billion people around the globe will participate in Earth Day 2012.

We are building a greener VA by protecting our resources for what matters most: providing superior service to our nation's Veterans.

www.va.gov/greenroutine

SUPPORT IS ONLY A TEXT MESSAGE AWAY

A new, free, confidential text-messaging service is now available for Veterans, Servicemembers, and their families through the Veterans Crisis Line. In addition to the Veterans Crisis Line (800.273.8255) and online chat (www.VeteransCrisisLine.net), Veterans and Servicemembers in crisis – and their friends and families – may now text free of charge to 83-8255 to receive confidential, personal and immediate support. The text service is available, like the Veterans Crisis Line and online chat, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. ★

We want to hear from you!

Email amanda.wilczynski@va.gov or lauren.heiger@va.gov to share your story with us!

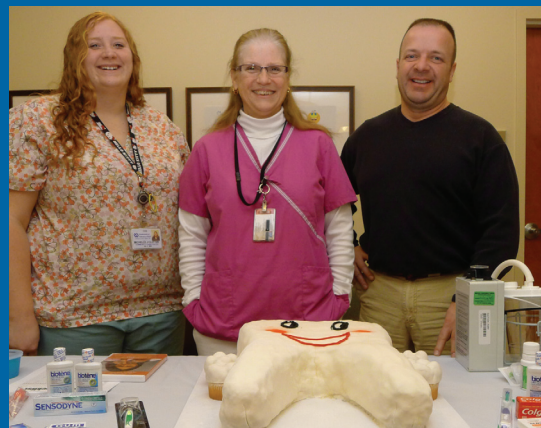
IMPROVING ORAL HEALTH CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

In April 2009, VA Butler was selected to participate in a National Pilot Program studying the benefits of daily oral care for Veteran residents in Community Living Centers (CLC). Led by Nurse Oral Health Coordinators Jessica Price, LPN and Sheila Shevitz, RN, the nursing staff not only embraced the pilot program, but improved our Veterans' comfort and overall health through daily oral care.

On May 8, 2012, VA Butler's CLC Nursing Staff and Dental Service will host an educational and interactive event for all Veterans, family members, and staff. The event is a celebration of the pilot's

success and will serve to promote the importance of oral health care for everyone.

Hope to see you there!



Michelle Clutter, RN; Rose Fallecker, RN; George Yarrington RN, Clinical Manager (left to right).



WELCOME JOHN GENNARO

Mr. John Gennaro, FACHE, MBA, MHSA was appointed to serve as the new Director for VA Butler Healthcare at the end of February. He came to VA Butler Healthcare from the VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System where he served as the Deputy Director since October 2010. ★

John Gennaro, VA Butler's Director thanks Marine Corps Veteran Hellen Erdos for her service following a ceremony to honor WWII and Korean Era women Veterans in VA Butler's Adult Day Health Care Program.

EVENTS

2-6 National Public Health Week
Monday, April 2 - Friday, April 6
8 am-4 pm
VA Butler Healthcare, Primary Care Lobby

3 Sexual Assault Awareness Day
Military Sexual Trauma Info Booth
Tuesday, April 3 • 9 am-1 pm
VA Butler Healthcare, Primary Care Lobby

5 April Podcast • VA Homelessness Program
Thursday, April 5 • 12-12:30 pm
Chat link: talkshoe.com/tc/85029
or Call in: 724.444.7444 (Call ID: 85029)



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